

his education, attending Philander Smith College and receiving his master's degree at Virginia Union University.

Reverend Webb first came to Reno-Sparks area 40 years ago to serve as a minister at Second Baptist Church. His strong and energetic leadership has helped grow Second Baptist Church from a congregation of fifty church members to more than three hundred. Reverend Webb has also challenged his ministry and his community to serve those in need, organizing food drives and other charitable activities throughout his time in Northern Nevada. He has also served as president of the Nevada-California Interstate Missionary Baptist Convention for 22 years.

I am pleased to say that the City of Reno recently honored Reverend Webb's contributions to the community by renaming the roundabout at Clear Acre and Wedekin Road, William C. Webb Circle. Reverend Webb has led a distinguished life and career, and please join me in thanking him for his tremendous service to the Reno-Sparks community.

SPARKS, NV

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the founding of Sparks, NV 100 years ago this week.

In 1904, the Southern Pacific Railroad wanted to straighten its route through northern Nevada. This required them to move from their switching yard at Wadsworth to another location, a hamlet originally known as Harriman. Many residents moved with the railroad, and they brought most of Wadsworth's buildings with them.

Shortly thereafter, the city changed its name to Sparks, in honor of John Sparks, who served as Nevada governor from 1903 to 1908 and who owned a ranch near the city.

Unlike many cities of the day, Sparks was a planned community with wide streets, ample parks, and impressive buildings. As the railroad's power waned in the 1950s, these traits allowed Sparks to become a picturesque, residential community.

Ground was broken for the first hotel in Sparks in 1903. The building was named after its first owner, Charles Walstab, and was the only hotel in Sparks until 1911. In 1920, the hotel was purchased by Frank Gardella and Frank Pasutti who changed the hotel's name to the Lincoln. People came from far and wide for the Lincoln's home-style meals, including chicken and ravioli. Many old-time patrons remember when it served free lunches and beer cost only a nickel. The building still stands on Victorian Avenue, and today is home to several small businesses.

The Soroptimist Club International was founded in Sparks in 1958. The

Sparks' Soroptimist club was formed to make a difference for women, focusing their extensive efforts on volunteer service in the community. They sponsored the Miss Nevada Pageant and Nevada Girl's State. Additionally, the Soroptimists awarded scholarships to young women graduating from Sparks High School, raised money for books at the Sparks Library, and donated to the Gray Ladies Indigent Fund for the State Hospital.

However, no history of Sparks would be complete without mentioning John Ascuaga, a developer and entrepreneur who built Sparks' first casino: the Nugget. In May of 1958, the Nugget's ambassador became a part of the town's fabric. The "Tall Cowboy" appropriately arrived on the railroad, in pieces. When assembled, Last Chance Joe, stood thirty-two feet tall at the entrance to the Nugget.

I would also like to recognize Tony Armstrong, the former mayor of Sparks who died in January of this year. Tony's personality, his vision for the city, his management skills, and his deep humanity made him a terrific mayor and an outstanding man. It was Tony who first contacted me about the Sparks' centennial. I miss Tony and it is fitting to recognize him on this day, which he would have enjoyed so much. I wish his successor, Gino Martini, all the best and look forward to working with him on projects important to Sparks.

Finally, it is remarkable that Sparks has retained its Victorian architecture and charm. The city beckons to us as a relic of a gentler and more beautiful time. It is truly one of the jewels of northern Nevada.

A century has passed since the City of Sparks was founded. I hope you will join me in celebrating this lovely Nevada community's centennial.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, a participant in a Davis, CA, gay-pride parade was assaulted last summer. The apparent motivation for the attack was the sexual orientation of the victim.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can

become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NOPEC

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I, again, join in the introduction of our NOPEC bill. I am sincerely sorry that this bill has not yet become law, and I hope that the situation we face as a nation will lead the Senate to recognize the toll that the OPEC producers are exacting from the American people. As gasoline prices continue to skyrocket, exceeding \$2 a gallon in many communities, we must have a real correction. As heating oil prices have soared, the President needs to take notice. Without correction and containment, consumers across the nation will continue to suffer.

The relentless increases in gasoline prices are not the result of natural supply issues. Rather, they are largely due to market manipulation by OPEC, a cartel of those controlling production and supply of oil from the Middle East. When the Antitrust Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary held its hearing on gas prices last year, experts from several fields, both in and out of government, confirmed for us what we already suspected: The higher prices are due to the OPEC cartel that sets production quotas for its members and prevents the free market from setting crude oil prices. The testimony at that hearing revealed that most of the gasoline price increase can be explained by OPEC's unfair production quotas.

The artificial pricing scheme enforced by OPEC affects all of us, not the least of whom are hardworking Vermont farmers. As USDA's Cooperative Extension Office in New Hampshire recently found, the increasing energy costs may add \$5,000 or more to the total costs of operating a 100-head dairy operation in the Northeast. In addition, soaring prices have affected a variety of industries across the United States, and will likely force many Americans to make tough choices about family travel.

Over the last year, I have expressed concern that gasoline prices would simply continue to rise. I have hardly been alone in that belief, and I am sorry to say that my prediction has borne fruit. Sadly, that fruit is bitter for those forced to pay ever higher prices to go about their daily lives. This week, the average price for regular gasoline reached \$2.00 per gallon. Our economy, our farmers, and our families need relief now. They also need good policy. In the absence of White House leadership, Congress should provide law enforcement the tools needed to fight anti-competitive practices.

If OPEC were simply a foreign business engaged in this type of behavior,